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Field Notes on Iowa birds, book news, and historical or biographical material pertaining to Iowa ornithology are desired for publication.

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE
WINTHROP, IOWA



MY NEIGHBOR OF THE MEADOW*

By WALTER M. ROSENE

"O-Ge-Whillaker!" This loud, clear, resounding call comes in through my bedroom window every morning at daybreak all summer long. To some this may seem a rude awakening since it sounds somewhat like a slang expression; but to me this song, as well as the other musical notes of the Western Meadowlark, is a stirring call to be up and out in the fresh morning air and about your work.

Just a short distance beyond my flower garden are several bits of meadow, and here the Meadowlark nests in the clumps of old dry blue grass. The nests are so cleverly concealed they are seldom discovered. Almost always arched over, the nest with its complement of from three to six eggs is fairly safe from enemies as the mother bird broods and peers out silently from her side entrance. Unless she flushes off the nest you would pass by her and never suspect the nest was there.

It is rather difficult to determine the exact date of spring arrival of the Western Meadowlark. I have Meadowlark records (for Boone County) for every month of the year. However, the winter records were no doubt for stragglers. The first week in March is usually the date to watch for the arrival of this bird in central Iowa. They remain until the last week of October, making an eight month stay during which time they not only furnish fine music but destroy great quantities of beetles and other destructive insects.

One might suppose that a bird so common and apparently so fearless would be very easy to photograph. I supposed this was the case until I tried to photograph them and then I learned that they are really very shy of a camera or a blind. I spent a great many long hours waiting for a chance to photograph one of them and failed. Finally, one sunny afternoon on the wind swept slopes of the Nebraska sandhills, I found one that was as fearless and as friendly as any bird I have ever seen. She would come up within three feet of my blind, giving me the opportunity to photograph that I desired.

By building their nests on the ground, a great many of them are destroyed and many of the young are killed by prowling cats or other predators, or by the elements. I have also found snakes actually trying to devour their young. After very heavy rains I have found entire nests of drowned young, and I do not doubt that many thousands are drowned during every heavy rainfall over the state. In spite of all the disasters that befall them, they seem to be holding their own and are perhaps increasing somewhat.

The best way to attract them is to provide suitable nesting cover, and this can be done by simply allowing some clumps of blue grass to remain uncut. If this were done on every golf course, there would be an abundance of Meadowlarks to furnish action, color and music for the weary players.

Central Iowa seems to be the meeting place of the Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, as we have them singing together in the same fields. As one travels eastward through Iowa he notices that the Western gradually disappears and only the weak song of the Eastern Meadowlark is heard. I really feel sorry for the people of the eastern part of the United States who think they have a Meadowlark that sings. I always tell them that they will have to cross the Mississippi and go to the prairies of western Iowa to hear the real Meadowlark song.

*With accompanying photograph of the nest of the Western Meadowlark. This illustration is from the Wild Life School and is published through courtesy of J. F. Widman and Sons, McGregor, Iowa.

I have heard the Western Meadowlark's clear, musical notes ringing across the great open spaces of the Dakotas and over the wind swept sandhills of western Nebraska. Were I to live to be a hundred I would always keep my window wide open at night so that I could be awakened every morning by the beautiful song of "O-Gee-Whillaker!"

OUR TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING

The twelfth annual meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union opened in Memorial Union Hall, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, May 18, 1934. Pres. George Hendrickson called the meeting to order at 9:30 A. M.

The first paper on the program was "Notes on Carolina Wrens," by Mrs. Toni Wendelburg, who gave her experiences with these wrens.

W. F. Kubichek read two short papers: "An Unusually Heavy Migration of Geese through Eastern Iowa" and "Do Birds Utilize the Sun's Rays during Incubation?" The first paper included observations made during the spring of 1934. The second paper mentioned Mr. Kubichek's experiences with nesting Prairie Chickens, and he showed pictures of them. Both papers were very interesting and brought forth an interesting discussion by various members.

"Marsh Hawk Studies," by Mrs. Frances Hamerstrom, covered nesting studies of the bird and its food habits. The next paper described "Owl Studies" by Frederick Hamerstrom. This paper concerned the Great Horned Owl. Quite complete nesting and food habits data had been obtained and were summarized for our benefit.

Logan Bennett described "Water Fowl Migration in Iowa," which he had observed while working at the Iowa State College experiment station maintained at Ruthven, Iowa. His description of the vast numbers of birds seen was very worth while.

Dr. Errington's talk on "Recent Quail Studies" was informing and of much interest to the listeners as evidenced by the questions and discussion which followed.

Dean Charles E. Friley of the Industrial Science Division of Iowa State College gave words of greeting to Iowa Ornithologists' Union members and described the work of the college along various lines of nature work. Arthur J. Palas responded in behalf of the Union with well chosen words.

President Hendrickson made announcements regarding the field trip and appointed committees as follows: Nominating, Mrs. Wendelburg, Philip DuMont and P. S. Junkin; Resolutions, J. Wilbur Dole, Dr. Errington and W. W. Bennett. The meeting adjourned for lunch, which was in the Modernistic Room of Memorial Union.

The afternoon and evening sessions were held in the Agricultural Hall Assembly. Philip DuMont gave an interesting summary of the "Present Distribution of the Starling in Iowa," and illustrated his talk with charts and maps.

The next feature on the afternoon program was a "Round Table of Field Observations" during which Fred G. Bliss, Paul S. Junkin, J. Wilbur Dole and Walter W. Bennett related experiences in their respective localities.

Robert Wyth presented a series of moving pictures showing "Scenes in Iowa State Parks." He described the different views and made comments as the showing progressed.

The business meeting followed and various topics were brought up and acted upon. Mr. Dole made a report on the proposition to have bird-banding license fees removed or reduced; nothing has been done as yet toward accomplishment. The Treasurer's report was read and

accepted, and an auditing committee was appointed to go over the books. Editor Pierce spoke briefly of the magazine. The Nominating Committee gave the list of new officers (as given on the title page of this issue). The Resolutions Committee read its set of resolutions, which, besides thanking Iowa State College and program committees for the fine entertainment given us, commended the Fish and Game Commission for its good work along various lines, thanked Governor Herring for appointing Mr. Rosene to the Commission, and voiced appreciation of the garden clubs and other organizations for their work in beautifying the highways and waste places.

Following the business meeting the next hour was given to Alden H. Hadley's illustrated lecture, "Birds and Conservation." Mr. Hadley, who is Director of Education for the National Association of Audubon Societies of New York, was secured for us through the courtesy of J. N. Darling, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey. The lecture was of unusual interest and was very well received.

The evening banquet was held in the Oak Room of Memorial Union. Prof. J. E. Guthrie was toastmaster, and he called upon the past presidents of the Union for short talks. All responded except Dr. F. L. R. Roberts, who was unable to attend the meeting.

After the banquet we heard Mr. Hadley's lecture, "Wanderings of a Bird Observer in the South," which was illustrated by a large series of lantern slides and several reels of very fine moving pictures. This was a particularly enjoyable feature of the meeting, and it was witnessed by many persons. This ended the Friday program.

The annual field trip was held in Ledges State Park, near Boone, on Saturday, May 19, the different groups arriving at about 6 A. M. and working in the park and vicinity until noon, when a luncheon was enjoyed at nearby Camp Hantesa. The complete list of birds was here compiled, which marked the finish of a most successful meeting.

A detailed description of our meeting is preserved in the Secretary's records. We regret that space limitations prevent our giving more than a very brief outline here.—F. J. P.

Attendance Register.—AMES, Mrs. Geo. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Battell, Mrs. P. H. Carr, Dr. P. L. Errington, Prof. J. E. Guthrie, Dr. and Mrs. Geo. Hendrickson, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Spawn, Chas. Vilbrandt, Mrs. Jay Woodrow; ARNOLDS PARK, W. W. Bennett; BAXTER, Rev. D. E. Bosma; CEDAR FALLS, Miss Winifred Gilbert, Robt. Wyth; CEDAR RAPIDS, Miss Lucile Fieseler, Mrs. C. C. Flodin, W. F. Kubichek, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Petranek; DES MOINES, P. A. and Mrs. W. G. DuMont, Mrs. T. S. Farquharson, Miss Helen Hovde, Miss Kate LaMar, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Palas, Mrs. H. R. Peasley, Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart, Mrs. Toni Wendelburg; FAIRFIELD, J. Wilbur Dole, P. S. Junkin, Mrs. A. E. Labagh, Mrs. W. Williams; GRUNDY CENTER, Mrs. J. R. King, Mrs. Jennie Meyers; MARSHALLTOWN, Mrs. E. T. King; MCGREGOR, O. P. Allert; NEVADA, Henry Birke-land; OGDEN, Mrs. S. Anderson, Mrs. Harvey Clark, Mrs. O. W. Clark, Mrs. F. M. Lorenzen, Walter M. and Walter Rosene, Jr.; POMEROY, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jones; ROCK RAPIDS, Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Thomas; RUTHVEN, Mr. and Mrs. Logan Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Hamerstrom; TAMA, Mrs. W. G. MacMartin, Mrs. C. J. Wonsler; WASHTA, F. G. Bliss; WATERLOO, John Bliese; WINTHROP, F. J. Pierce; BOONTON, N. J., G. A. Ammann; NEW YORK CITY, Alden H. Hadley. (Many visitors did not register.)

Birds Seen on the Field Trip.—Ledges State Park and vicinity, Boone County; also a trip to Little Wall Lake, Hamilton County, (by P. A. DuMont) where the water birds on this list were found; 6 A. M. to 12 M. Pied-billed Grebe, Forster's and Black Terns, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Shoveller, Pintail, Canvasback, Scaup, Great Blue

and Black-crowned Herons, Sora, Florida Gallinule, Coot, Wilson's Phalarope, Stilt, Pectoral, White-rumped, Baird's, Least, Red-backed, Semipalmated and Spotted Sandpipers, Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits, Lesser Yellow-legs, Upland, Black-bellied, Golden, and Semipalmated Plovers, Killdeer, Bob-white, Ring-necked Pheasant, Rock Dove (living in a natural state in rock ledges of the park), Mourning Dove, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Screech Owl, Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoos, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy, Downy, Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Flicker, Whip-poor-will, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Kingbird, Ark. Kingbird, Phoebe, Crested, Acadian, Alder and Least Flycatchers, Wood Pewee, Prairie Horned Lark, Blue Jay, Crow, Starling, Bobolink, Cowbird, Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, Baltimore Oriole, Bronzed Grackle, Goldfinch, English, Vesper, Savannah, Grasshopper, Nelson's, Lark, Chipping, Field and Song Sparrows, Towhee, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Martin, Cliff, Barn, Tree, Bank and Rough-winged Swallows, Cedar Waxwing, Migrant Shrike, Red-eyed, Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos, Blue-winged, Nashville, Parula, Tenn., Yellow, Magnolia, Cerulean, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll, Black-throated Green, Mourning and Wilson's Warblers, Grinnell's and Louisiana Water-thrushes, Ovenbird, Northern Yellow-throat, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, House Wren, White-breasted Nuthatch, Tufted Titmouse, Chickadee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wood, Gray-cheeked and Olive-backed Thrushes, Robin and Bluebird. Total, 127 species.

GENERAL NOTES

Fall Migration Notes on Red-tailed Hawks in Iowa.—Recently the writer summarized ('Iowa Bird Life', III, pp. 5-7) the status and relative abundance of the various forms of the Red-tailed Hawk in Iowa. The results of an examination of numerous Iowa specimens of this hawk are contained in "The Revised List of the Birds of Iowa" (Univ. Iowa, Studies in Natural History, Vol. 15, No. 5, 1933).

During the fall of 1933 the writer had unusual opportunities to observe migrating *Buteos*, particularly in central and eastern Iowa. The results of these observations confirm satisfactorily the statements of relative abundance cited above. Of 183 *Buteos* seen between September 30 and October 25 five-sixths were the Eastern Red-tailed Hawk. A surprisingly large percentage of these were in adult plumage; the juveniles appeared to move southward during early September.

The first indication of the pronounced autumnal flight of *Buteo borealis* was noted October 16, when three Eastern Red-tails and three Harlan's or Western Red-tails were seen south of Commerce in Polk County. The three dark individuals were not satisfactorily identified, but one at least had a rusty tail indicative of *calurus*.

On October 19, during a 70-mile drive in Polk and Story Counties, eight Eastern Red-tails were seen. One Harlan's Hawk was positively identified two miles southwest of Kelley, Story County. It was in the third year or adult plumage with gray mottled tail and with the inner wing linings spotted black and white.

During a 155-mile drive on October 21, through Polk, Jasper, Marion, Mahaska, Keokuk, Washington, and Johnson Counties 40 *Buteo borealis* were seen including five Harlan's Hawks and two Krider's Hawks. The remainder were either the Eastern Red-tail or were too far distant to positively identify as to subspecies. Two Harlan's Hawks were seen one mile west of Prairie City, Jasper County. Three were seen in Washington County, about 15 miles south of Iowa City. The two Krider's Hawks were seen in approximately the same locality.

On October 22, during a drive of 76 miles in Henry, Washington, Louisa, Muscatine, and Johnson Counties 111 Red-tailed Hawks were noted. These were recorded during a 4½ hour period. The numbers noted in the various counties were as follows: Henry, 9 (including one *harlani*); Washington, 79 (including 10 *harlani*); Louisa, 6; Muscatine, 2; Johnson, 6. The single Harlan's Hawk seen in Henry County was four miles north of Mt. Pleasant, and 73 of the *Buteos* seen in Washington County were noted during a half-hour period, two miles south of Olds. These birds were in twos and threes, circling high overhead and drifting with the wind southeastwardly. Ten individuals were satisfactorily identified as Harlan's Hawks, but fully a quarter of the birds appeared to be dark-plumaged—either Harlan's or the Western Red-tail in the dark phase.

A 200-mile auto trip was made October 23, in Polk, Story, Hamilton, Webster, and Boone Counties. Only 10 Red-tailed Hawks were seen, although conditions appeared to be entirely as favorable as the preceding day. Seven of these birds were the Eastern Red-tail. One Western Red-tail in the dark phase was seen two miles south of Stanhope, Hamilton County. As it perched on a fence-post for several minutes, about 150 feet away, the lack of mottling on the rusty tail was easily seen. The solid black coloration of this bird above and below is in marked contrast to the black and white spotted plumage which generally prevails in *harlani*. Of two Harlan's Hawks one was noticed 14 miles northeast of Boone in Hamilton County, while the other was observed ten miles northeast of Boone in Boone County.

Comparably, it is of interest that on October 24, during a 35-mile drive in Polk and Story Counties no *Buteos* were seen. On October 25, while covering the same area five *Buteos* were noted. Three were the Eastern Red-tail. A Harlan's Hawk was seen three miles west of Ames, Story County, and a Western Red-tail in the dark phase was seen in the same general locality.

Two earlier observations of the Krider's Hawk would suggest that it arrives in Iowa before the flight of the Harlan's and Western Red-tailed Hawk begins. One was noted in Polk County, north of Ankeny on September 30, and two were seen in Johnson County north of Solon, on October 8.

Only one Rough-legged Hawk was seen during this three weeks period. It was noted October 25 in Polk County. The largest number of Marsh Hawks seen was eight on October 22.—PHILIP A. DU MONT, Des Moines, Iowa.

The Carolina Wren and Other Birds at Boone.—In late August, 1932, we noticed a Carolina Wren in our yard. Almost daily for several weeks we saw and heard him about the garden or in the vines or apple trees. In the evening he often perched on the ridge of the garage, singing in true wren fashion. For a few weeks we missed him, but in October he returned to our vines over the pantry window where one of the feeding-stations is located. After that, he made frequent visits and was last seen December 28, 1932. He was quite fearless and could hold his own with six or eight sparrows at a time. He differed from the nuthatch and chickadee in that he never carried away nuts or sunflower seeds. He ate his fill and then spent ten minutes or more sitting on the edge of the box and looking into the window. Only 18 inches of space and the window-pane separated us, yet he had no fear.

In the summer of 1931, a pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos came to our walnut tree in the parking. They were with us for several weeks. That year the walnut trees were infested with tent caterpillars. Not another tree in our neighborhood was spared, and all were quickly stripped of their leaves. But the cuckoos kept the caterpillars cleaned out of our tree and it retained its leaves.

On September 23, 1932, my husband found a cuckoo inside our screened-in front porch. A hole in the rusted screen showed how he had entered. His feet and bill were slightly bleeding from the contact with the screen; otherwise he was unhurt, and flew away when released.

A Red-bellied Woodpecker joined our regular boarders this winter (1933-1934). For the past two years he has been an occasional visitor. He feeds on the suet but spends much of his spare time removing the nuthatches' stored nut meats and sunflower seeds from a deep crack in the martin house pole. Last summer a sunflower grew out of a crevice in our neighbor's brick wall, no doubt a planting by our birds.—MRS. WM. BUZBY, Boone, Iowa.

The Red-shouldered Hawk in Clayton County in Winter.—Evidence as to the status of the Red-shouldered Hawk as a winter bird in northern Iowa is entirely lacking. With this in mind I wish to record an immature female, freshly killed, which I picked up near Farmersburg, Clayton County, January 17, 1933. The stomach contained two white-footed mice.—O. P. ALLERT, Giard, via McGregor, Iowa.

Flicker Kills Young Robins.—On June 4, 1933, while in the yard of my home, I was attracted by the cries of a pair of Robins and saw a female Flicker in the act of killing the two young that the Robins' nest contained. One was killed in the nest, and the other either fell or was thrown to the ground, where the Flicker followed and dispatched it. The Flicker left the ground reluctantly as I approached.—O. P. ALLERT, Giard, via McGregor, Iowa.

Birds in the Iowa City Region.—On November 26, 1933, we found a Mockingbird near Swan Lake, Johnson County. This bird was subsequently seen by several other observers. On the same day we witnessed an interesting clash between a Barn Owl and a Short-eared Owl. The Barn Owl attacked from above with a scream. We could not be sure there was actual physical contact.

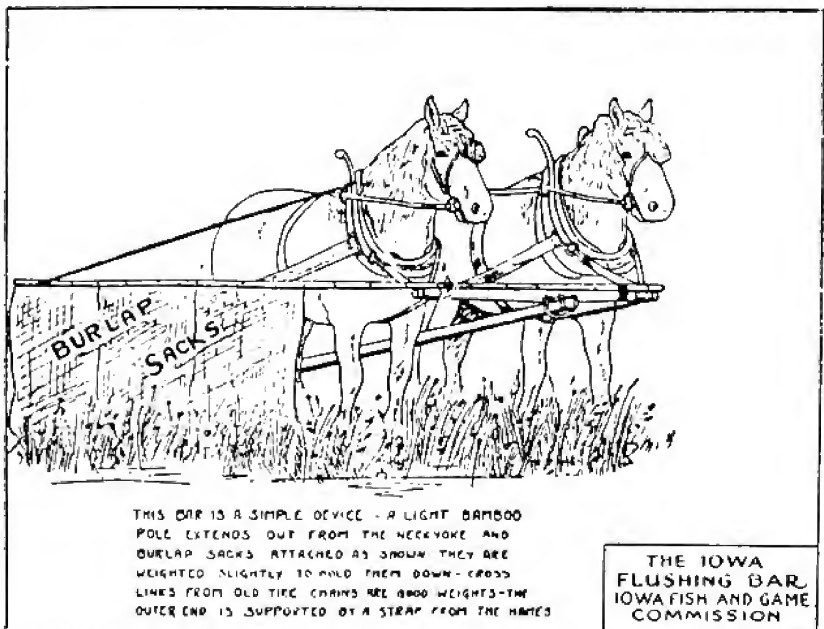
Our Christmas census was taken December 30, 1933. We recorded 27 species, including a Winter Wren and a Duck Hawk. We found several Wilson's Snipes in spite of the fact that there had been 16 below zero weather.

Once a year we try for a big list. This year (1934) the date was May 6. We observed 103 species, including the following: Dowitcher; Marbled Godwit; 24 Golden Plovers and another flock of 15 which may or may not have been from the first flock; about 2000 Red-wings, most or all being first-year males; a fairly compact flock of 10 male Bobolinks; 35 Savannah Sparrows; 4 Blue-winged Warblers, all found within a half hour; Yellow-breasted Chat; American Pipit, our first Iowa record; and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Other "finds" this spring included a Red-backed Sandpiper, 4 Hudsonian Godwits, 2 Marbled Godwits, and a Cerulean Warbler. We found all three mergansers on one lake in one day. Blue Geese were seen on several occasions. While with the Cedar Rapids Bird Club on April 22 we observed a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Lily Lake, near Amana.

We have the Double-crested Cormorant here every year. Rough-legged Hawks were very abundant all winter. Our last date of observation was April 22. We see both Brewer's and Rusty Blackbirds in some numbers both spring and fall. There are many times more Rusties than Brewer's.

Our year's list to date (May 28) is 166 species. Our total list for the year 1933 was 178 species.—MARY PRICE ROBERTS, Iowa City, Iowa.



With the approach of the mowing season, the Iowa Fish and Game Commission calls attention to a home-made flushing bar by which farmers may avoid destruction of the nests of game birds. The burlap sacks drag over the hay in the path of the sickle bar. This flushes the incubating bird and the farmer raises the sickle bar to pass over the nest. The cost of making this device is said to be less than thirty cents.

Christmas Bird Census at Sioux City.—Sioux City and surrounding territory, Dec. 24, 1933; 9:30 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. Fair; strong, cold wind; no snow on ground; temp. zero to 2 degrees above. Observers in four groups. Mallard, 6; Great Horned Owl, 1; Short-eared Owl, 1; Flicker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 11; Horned Lark, 23 (1 flock); Crow, 7; Black-capped Chickadee, 59; White-breasted Nuthatch, 16; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Brown Creeper, 3; Bluebird, 8; Cardinal, 16; Slate-colored Junco, 15; Tree Sparrow, 153. Total, 18 species, 329 individuals. The Short-eared Owl was seen at close range by Mr. and Mrs. Felton. Screech Owls, Bob-white and Ring-necked Pheasants winter here. On December 23, a farmer counted 19 pheasants in his chicken yard and reported 125 Rusty Blackbirds on the same day. Our party included Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Felton, Wm. Felton, Mrs. Frank Marshall, W. J. Hayward, Miss Hayward, M. E. Blessing, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Armour, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Younglove, and the writer. —MRS. MARY L. BAILEY.

Unusual Nesting Sites of the Tree Swallow.—In June, 1930, a pair of Tree Swallows nested in one of the hollow davits on the ferry "Lorraine." The frequent trips between McGregor, Iowa, and Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, seemingly did not interfere with nesting operations. The unusual heat of that summer, in addition to the heat-retaining qualities of iron, must have made this site a most torrid one. While it is not known if the young survived, they were heard in the interior of the davits. Another pair nested in one of the Mississippi River channel buoys near Marquette, Iowa, in 1929.—O. P. ALLERT, Giard, via McGregor, Iowa.

An Explanation of a Supposed Hybrid.—In 'Iowa Bird Life' for December, 1933 (p. 55) I reported finding a bird which "we believe may have been a hybrid between an English Sparrow and a Cardinal." An article by a member of zoology department of the University, published in the Iowa City 'Press-Citizen', explains this find by stating that an African Masked Finch had escaped from their department. Dr. Witschi of that department showed me a painting of this bird. It answers exactly the description I published. The bird which had escaped was undoubtedly the one I saw.—F. L. R. ROBERTS, Iowa City, Iowa.

Winter Notes from Iowa City.—On February 3, 1934, I observed the Great Horned Owl and the Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Rough-legged Hawks. On February 5, I discovered a Saw-whet Owl. My attention was attracted by a large number of pellets at the base of a tree. The small owl was perched about half way up in the tree. It allowed me to approach within hand's reach of it, and it gazed at me, seemingly unafraid. I believe that this owl spent the winter at this roost. I collected 36 pellets under the tree and sent them to the Biological Survey for analysis.

On February 16, with a friend I again visited the locality where I had seen the Great Horned Owl, a short distance beyond Swan Lake. After some search we discovered the Horned Owl's nest, which had several owl feathers hanging on the outside of it. The nest contained two eggs. They were well incubated and I judged they had been laid about February 5. We saw the owl but once while examining the nest.

On our way home, a short distance from this location, we saw a Mockingbird. We got out of our car and approached it, observing it at close range. It flew across the road to an old stump where we again made a careful study of it. A small flock of grackles was seen in some trees a short distance from where we saw the Mockingbird.

Starlings appear to be more common about this region, and I have seen several flocks both large and small.

While driving along the road during late February, I saw a flock of 15 or more Marsh Hawks, the larger number of which were males. They were flying about a group of trees, often most of the flock in the air at once. I am positive of the identification, as were the two men who were with me. We approached within very close range of the birds, and very carefully noted the light, bluish gray males with white rump patches and the darker females. Since we saw them at close range, there was no possibility of confusing them with the Rough-legged Hawk of similar size. Although the Marsh Hawk is not common in Iowa in winter, DuMont reports it as occurring rather frequently in southern Iowa. Roberts in "Birds of Minnesota" mentions the flocking of numbers of Marsh Hawk during migration. Perhaps this flock formed during the extremely mild weather that we had been having.—JOHN RIPLEY FORBES, Iowa City, Iowa.

If you do not see your locality represented in 'Iowa Bird Life', it is because you have failed to send us your observations. Brief field notes of interest are needed at all times. Notes on bird migration are particularly desirable for publication. News regarding the activities of our members are also acceptable. It is impossible to send every member a personal invitation to contribute. This is YOUR magazine and we are depending on YOU to keep it supplied with readable material.

* * * * *

Walter M. Rosene of Ogden, well known to all members of our Union was recently appointed a member of the Iowa Fish and Game Commission by Governor Clyde L. Herring. He fills the vacancy caused

by the resignation of J. N. Darling of Des Moines, who left the Commission when appointed Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey at Washington. Mr. Rosene's appointment is very gratifying to us as it gives our organization representation which we have not before had. And the appointment of a nature lover of Mr. Rosene's qualifications is a big boost for the cause of conservation in Iowa.

Richard Gillespie died at Bay City, Michigan, March 10, 1934. He was born in Ontario, Canada, September 24, 1869, and received his education at Hamilton, Ontario. Many years of his life were spent as an instructor in commercial colleges. It was while teaching in Gates Business College, Waterloo, Iowa, during the period 1924-1928, that he became a member of our organization.



RICHARD GILLESPIE

From a photograph taken by Wm. B. Tyrrell in 1931.

Burial was at Lansing, Michigan. His wife died many years ago. Three daughters survive him. We are indebted to his friend, Dr. E. D. Slawson of Bay City, who has paid the cost of the accompanying engraving.—F. J. P.

Although Mr. Gillespie's interest in ornithology came late in life, he was a nature lover from youth. He was a friend of all wild life, and conservation matters were always his deep concern. He enjoyed good health practically all of his life. Ever ready for a tramp in the fields or woods, and always with a sprightly step, a keen eye, and a boyish enthusiasm that belied advancing years, Mr. Gillespie was an ideal companion. I have memories of many pleasant trips with him in the Cedar River country about Waterloo, sometimes with Harvey Nichols, Vance Allyn or other bird men as companions. His was an unusually keen mind and, being gifted with an ability to appreciate and the power to describe what he saw, he wrote with a vivid descriptive style. His letters were lengthy and numerous, but it is our loss that he did no writing for publication.

Orin M. Greenwood, well known taxidermist of Manchester, Iowa, died February 15, 1934. He was a taxidermist primarily, but he was well informed ornithologically and watched the birds with much interest. His collection of mounted birds and animals, numbering several hundred pieces, was left to the Manchester Public Library where it is now displayed. He had a specimen of the Passenger Pigeon (for data see 'Iowa Bird Life,' III, 1933, p. 29) which, we understand, was given to his nephew, Ray Greenwood of Webster City. A biographical sketch of Mr. Greenwood appears in 'The Oologist,' LI, 1934, p. 45.

"A Field Guide to the Birds," by Roger Tory Peterson.

We believe this book will prove more useful to field students than any other guide that has appeared since the famous Reed "Bird Guides" with which most of us began our bird studies. Within the covers of Mr. Peterson's 167-page book, which is of a size to invite slipping into your pocket on every field trip, is presented a wealth of practical information heretofore inaccessible to the average worker.

The book follows a somewhat new plan. It shows why color values rather than actual colors are a determining factor in field identifications, especially when made at a distance. By the series of 36 diagrammatic plates, four of which are in color, we are shown what markings to look for and exactly what points will decide the species under observation. Many of the plates show the birds in flight—a great assistance and a feature overlooked by most bird books. These plates are well drawn by the author of the book and show the birds as they would appear at some distance. Numerous text cuts point out further details essential for sight identification. The accompanying text is concise and consists of descriptions of plumages and distinguishing field marks for each bird.

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